GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1449
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2002
VISIT OF INTERNATIONAL EXPERTS DIPLOMATS TO JAMMU KASHMIR
RENUKA CHOWDHURY;SRINIVASULU KALAVA;SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a)whether international experts and Delhi based diplomats of various countries visited Jammu and Kashmir during elections as observers, officially or unofficially;

(b)if so, the details of countries whose diplomats were so permitted to witness the polling and counting process;

(c)whether they have given their reports/impressions on elections in the State;

(d)if so, the details thereof; and

(e)the Government`s reaction thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS(SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH)

(a)About thirty Delhi-based diplomats, as a part of their normal diplomatic functioning, visited Jammu and Kashmir during the assembly elections in the State. There was also no restriction on any other visitor, who was otherwise present in India, from going to J & K during this period.

(b)Delhi-based diplomats inter alia from Australia, Britain, Canada, Denmark, European Commission, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United States of America were issued special passes by the Election Commission of India, following precedent, to see the elections in Jammu & Kashmir.

(c) & (d)Any reports/impressions given by the diplomats would have been to their respective governments, which is again a part of the normal diplomatic functioning.

(e)Jammu & Kashmir elections have been positively assessed in comments by members of the international community.